

Message Text

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SUBJECT: FULBRIGHT COMMISSION MEETING FEBRUARY 26, 1975

REF: BELGRADE A-22

BEGIN SUMMARY:

TWO MAIN ITEMS OF BUSINESS WERE ON AGENDA FOR SIXTY-FOURTH MEETING OF FULBRIGHT COMMISSION FEBRUARY 26. FIRST WAS PROGRAM PROPOSAL FOR 1976-77 WHICH WAS APPROVED BY COMMISSION AND SUMMARY OF CONTENTS REPORTED BY SEPTEL. SECOND ITEM WAS DISCUSSION OF PLAN FOR MORE ACTIVE AND INNOVATIVE ROLE FOR COMMISSION, ALONG LINES PROPOSED BY AMERICAN CHAIRMAN IN JANUARY (A-22) AS COMMISSION BEGINS ITS SECOND DECADE OF OPERATION IN YUGOSLAVIA. LIVELY AND VALUABLE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS FOLLOWED FOR TWO HOURS WITH SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ALL MEMBERS PRESENT. END SUMMARY.

AMONG MAJOR POINTS OF AGREEMENT:

1. A REJUVENATED, FORWARD LOOKING COMMISSION IS ESSENTIAL IF EXCHANGE PROGRAM IS TO CONTINUE TO SERVE NEEDS OF BOTH COUNTRIES.

2. COMMISSION SHOULD SEEK OUT AND DEVELOP NEW EXCHANGE IDEAS AND NOT LIMIT ITS ACTIVITIES TO PROJECTS EXCLUSIVELY WITHIN ACADEMIC COMMUNITY, IN NARROW SENSE OF WORD.

3. COMMISSION SHOULD BE POLICY-MAKING BODY CONCERNED MORE

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WITH SUBSTANCE AND OVERALL PHILOSOPHY OF PROGRAM THAN WITH ITS

OPERATIONAL ASPECTS.

4. COMMISSION COULD ACT AS CLEARING HOUSE FOR ALL EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN US AND YUGOSLAVIA.

5. YUGOSLAV FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO COMMISSION WOULD INCREASE PROVIDED IT DEVELOPS ALONG GENERAL LINES DISCUSSED AT MEETING.

SUB-COMMITTEE WAS ASSIGNED RESPONSIBILITY FOR PREPARING WORKING DOCUMENT REFLECTING ABOVE IDEAS FOR PRESENTATION TO FULL COMMISSION IN JUNE. PAPER WILL ALSO SPELL OUT LONGTERM PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AND PROVIDE GENERAL POLICY GUIDANCE. IT WILL THEN BE CIRCULATED FOR COMMENT TO BOTH SIDES AND FINALIZED IN SEPTEMBER MEETING. FY 77-78 PROGRAM PROPOSAL WILL BE DRAWN UP ON BASIS OF DOCUMENT.

COMMENT: MEETING WAS MOST PRODUCTIVE IN RECENT MEMORY, AND YUGOSLAV MEMBERS IN PARTICULAR SEEMED VERY PLEASED WITH PROSPECTS FOR MORE DYNAMIC COMMISSION. THERE IS NEW MOMENTUM DEVELOPING, AND LIMITS OF COOPERATION ARE NOT YET IN SIGHT. WHETHER REAL BREAKTHROUGH IS AT HAND REMAINS TO BE SEEN, BUT CHANCES ARE BETTER THAN 50-50.
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